



HYDE HEADMASTER ON DONAHUE — "We are built on truth as the ultimate value," says Joe Gould, founder of the Hyde School (right), sitting beside Gould is Headmaster Ed Legg. Gould and Legg recently made an appearance on the Phil Donahue Show which will be aired on Friday by WGAN.

Hyde School Featured on Phil Donahue Show

By ERNEST HADLEY

BATH — "The human spirit transcends human life. You teach to the spirit," says Joe Gould, founder of the Hyde School in Bath. Gould made the statement at a previewing of the Phil Donahue Show which featured Hyde School. The program, which was filmed live in Chicago on Jan. 7, will be airing on WGAN on Friday, Feb. 24 at 9 a.m.

The 60-minute segment has already been shown in several parts of the country and the response is overwhelming. The Hyde School has already been largely publicized on a national basis receiving the attention of the Today Show, The David Susskind Show, Time Magazine, The New York Times and The Washington Post. Gould has spent the past two years putting together a book of the development of the Hyde School over the last 11 years. The book, which will be published by Bantam Books, is scheduled to come out in November.

Gould taught for 13 years in the traditional school systems before leaving to start a school of his own.

"There ought to be something you can hang onto — but there just isn't," says Gould of the traditional approach to education. So Gould set out to develop "not an alternative, approach but a different approach" for education in America.

Gould says that all too often Hyde School is viewed as a place for "problem kids" but the function of Hyde is not to teach students their proper rules but help them develop their full potential.

The backbone to the Hyde School concept is that every student is unique. Character development and emotional growth are as much a part of the school as the academic curriculum, if not more a part.

"If you take care of the character, academics will take care of themselves," says Gould.

Students at Hyde generally range from about 14 to 20 years of age. Upon graduation from Hyde students have the option of spending an extra year to do "post graduate" work. Many students take this option and spend the year working an internship at the school or working in the community.

When Gould first founded the school he decided to work on character development as one of his goals. He says at that point much of his approach was still traditional because that was all he knew. As the years have gone by Hyde has abandoned many of the traditional ideas for the innovative ideas which they have shown can and do work.

Remarkably the school has not fallen prey to many of the problems which have confronted other efforts to get away from traditional education. Perhaps the reason for this is that Hyde has not totally abandoned traditional approaches for the "let the kids do what they want" approach that many other alternative approaches to education have adopted.

Hyde is a demanding school both from the point of view of students and faculty alike.

"We expect the same things out of teachers and parents that we expect out of the kids," Gould explains.

The program at Hyde involves a strong commitment on the part of the student and the parents. Parents who live in the various states of the students who attend Hyde hold regularly scheduled meetings among themselves. The idea is to establish a better line of communications in the family circle. Gould feels that all too often family situations can be superficial and that no real communication takes place.

The Donahue show which will air Friday is an in-depth look at the school and the philosophy behind its educational values. The show features Gould along with Ed Legg, headmaster at Hyde, as well as students and parents who have had the Hyde School experience.

Donahue, in his usual manner, runs an informal and energetic show which probes some of the more controversial aspects of a school such as Hyde.

One question which Donahue raises is whether or not Hyde School is simply a different kind of indoctrination.

"Which way do you want it — do you want your kids indoctrinated there or here?" is Gould's response to the issue of indoctrination.

The point is that if there is an "indoctrination" at Hyde it is one in which the students learn fully about themselves and their ultimate potentials as individuals.

"The youngster must grow beyond the adult," says Gould. "The student isn't out to live up to his parent's expectations but to go beyond that and live up to his own expectations.

Gould uses an example from Roots where Kunta Kinte holds his young daughter up above his head and says, "Behold the only thing greater than yourself."

Parents and students offer convincing testimony of the success of Hyde School in the program.

"No matter how hard I fought them they would fight me just as hard," says one student in explaining her experiences at Hyde School.

"It's not discipline it's helping people," explains Gould.